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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT**16 MARCH 2020**

(U) CALIFORNIA**(U) Mather – Governor Newsom Calls for Isolation of Seniors and Closures Due to COVID-19 Concerns**

(U) Governor Gavin Newsom and California health officials gave an update Sunday on the state's response to COVID-19, the novel coronavirus. The governor said he was calling for the home isolation of all seniors, anyone 65 years of age or older, and those with chronic conditions. He also called for the closures of bars, nightclubs, brewpubs, and wineries to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Newsom also called on restaurants to cut occupancy in half in an effort to give customers more space to practice social distancing.

SOURCE: 15 March 2020, [KCRA](#)

(U) Sacramento – El Dorado County Closing All School Districts to Fight Coronavirus Spread

(U) The El Dorado County District Superintendent, the Office of Education, the county Public Health Officer, and school district superintendents across California made the decision to close all El Dorado county schools for five days. Health officials said no one in the county has tested positive for COVID-19, but the El Dorado County Public Health Division said it expects to see cases soon. The districts will reassess at the end of the week to decide whether an extension of school closures will be needed.

SOURCE: 14 March 2020, [Sacramento Bee](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST LAND BORDER**(U) California – Border Patrol Closes Six Lanes at San Ysidro Border Crossing**

(U) San Ysidro – On Tuesday, the CBP temporarily suspended operations on six of the nearly 30 active vehicle lanes at the San Ysidro Port of Entry to "install and preposition port-hardening infrastructure equipment in preparation for increasing security practices," according to a CBP spokeswoman. The closures are not related to the coronavirus pandemic, but part of heightened security measures related to possible court-ordered changes to the so-called Remain in Mexico program. The lanes will remain closed for the foreseeable future, which the business sector anticipates will increase wait times to cross the Tijuana-San Diego border.

SOURCE: 14 March 2020, [LA Times](#)

(U) Mexico – Mexico Considering Border-Crossing Limits

(U) Mexico City – Mexican Deputy Health Secretary Hugo Lopez-Gatell has said authorities would consider mechanisms to control the flow of people entering Mexico from the US in an effort to limit the spread of the coronavirus. Mexico has so far confirmed 15 cases of coronavirus with no deaths, a fraction of the more than 1,000 cases in the US, where more than 40 confirmed deaths have resulted from the virus. That has led some in Mexico to see contagion from the US as a threat. While California has seen at least 50 cases and five deaths since the outbreak of the virus, no cases are confirmed in bordering Baja California, a Mexican state.

SOURCE: 13 March 2020, [Al Jazeera](#)

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(U) NATIONAL**(U) District Of Columbia – Cyberattack Hits US Health Department Amid Coronavirus**

(U) Washington – The US Department of Health and Human Services, a key part of the federal response to the fast-spreading COVID-19 outbreak, was hit by a cyberattack on Sunday night, prompting a response from the National Security Council. Multiple hacking incidents appeared aimed at slowing down the department's systems,

SOURCE: 16 March 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) New Jersey – Two New Jersey Men Used Drones to Smuggle Drugs and Cell Phones into Prison

(U) Fort Dix – Nicolo Denichilo, 38, and Adrian Goolcharran, 35, smuggled items including marijuana, steroids, cell phones, SIM cards, and syringes into a prison in Fort Dix, New Jersey, according to the US Attorney's Office. The prison is a low security federal correctional institution that houses more than 3,000 inmates. Law enforcement officials attempted to arrest Denichilo and another unnamed individual after prison officials saw a drone flying over one of the prison's housing units. Authorities also allege that Goolcharran used cell phones to coordinate the drone drops.

SOURCE: 15 March 2020, [CNN](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Australia – Man Charged After Allegedly Planning Terrorism Attack**

(U) New South Wales – A joint counter-terrorism team investigating extreme rightwing behavior in the state has charged a man with a terrorism offence. The 21-year-old man from Sanctuary Point on the NSW south coast was charged with one count of acts done in preparation for, or planning, terrorist acts after a joint counter-terrorism team investigation. The offence carries a maximum penalty of life in jail. The 21-year-old allegedly attempted and planned to buy or acquire military equipment including firearms and items capable of making improvised explosive devices.

SOURCE: 16 March 2020, [The Guardian](#)

(U) Austria – Hezbollah Commander Prosecuted For Terror Finance

(U) Carinthia – Prosecutors in the Austrian state of Carinthia have started a trial against an alleged Hezbollah commander who spent 13 years in the central European country while reportedly being involved in financing terrorism. The trial will formally start in early April. The unnamed Hezbollah military leader has lived in Carinthia for 13 years. The authorities have accused him of working for Hezbollah in Lebanon. The indictment states that the Hezbollah commander is a member of a terrorist organization and engaged in the finance of terrorism activities

SOURCE: 16 March 2020, [Jerusalem Post](#)

(U) Iraq – ISIS Directs its Terrorists Not to Travel to Europe for Jihad Because of COVID-19

(U) Baghdad – ISIS is purportedly telling its terrorists to steer clear of major European cities due to the coronavirus, according to the ISIS' al-Naba newsletter. Sick jihadists already in Europe have been directed to stay there presumably to sicken infidels and avoid spreading the virus to fellow terrorists. The newsletter instructs jihadists that the "plague" is a "torment sent by God on whomsoever He wills" and that the "healthy should not enter the land of the epidemic and the afflicted should not exit from it."

SOURCE: 15 March 2020, [NY Post](#)

(U) Iraq – ISIS Video Boasts Of Deadly Attacks on Troops and Civilians

(U) Kirkuk – ISIS has released a propaganda video in which it boasts of carrying out a series of guerrilla

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attacks in northern Iraq and killing dozens of civilians and security forces. The 30-minute video includes several terrorist attacks in the northern Iraqi province of Kirkuk, including a mortar strike on an amateur football match and the beheading of captured Iraqi soldiers. ISIS militants claim that they remain a serious threat in Iraq and are shown terrorizing several towns, despite continuing operations against them by a US-led military coalition and the Iraqi army.

SOURCE: 16 March 2020, [The Times](#)

(U) Nigeria – Explosion Kills at Least 15 as Nigerians Probe Cause

(U) Lagos – An explosion hit Nigeria’s commercial capital of Lagos early Sunday, killing at least 15 people and sparking search-and-rescue efforts to save people still trapped in collapsed buildings, emergency officials said. Fires were spreading to nearby oil pipelines, so there were fears of more damage or explosions. The death toll was expected to rise because residents said some people remained trapped in collapsed buildings. Nigerian officials were not able to identify the cause of the massive explosion, although a naval base is located nearby. It was the most serious explosion in Lagos since January 2002, when bombs from a military armory exploded, killing more than 1,000 people.

SOURCE: 15 March 2020, [AP News](#)

(U) Turkey –Turkey Orders Four Relatives of ISIS Leader Jailed

(U) Kırşehir – A Turkish court ordered the imprisonment of four relatives of slain ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi for joining the terrorist group. Four were sentenced to six years and three months in jail after they were convicted of joining a terrorist group. Seven others were ordered to be deported back to their countries. The defendants appeared before a court in the central Turkish region of Kırşehir. Baghdadi was killed in an American raid in the northwestern Syrian province of Idlib in October.

SOURCE: 16 March 2020, [Aaswat](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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